



## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS Veterans Health Administration

October 2003

Dear Veteran:

The VA will now use **fluvastatin (Lescol®)** for treating high cholesterol in some veterans. **Fluvastatin** works in the same way as pravastatin (Pravachol®) for lowering cholesterol. Your doctor has agreed to change your medicine (pravastatin) to **fluvastatin**.

- ✓ You will receive **fluvastatin** instead of pravastatin for your next refill. You may take the rest of your pravastatin before you start taking the **fluvastatin**.
- ✓ Your doctor will prescribe a dose of **fluvastatin** that will lower your cholesterol the same amount as pravastatin.
- ✓ You will be taking **fluvastatin** once daily for your cholesterol.
- ✓ You can take **fluvastatin** at the same time of day that you were taking your pravastatin.
- ✓ You can take **fluvastatin** with or without food.
- ✓ The side effects of **fluvastatin** are similar to pravastatin.
- ✓ Be sure to notify your Healthcare Provider if you notice any unexplained muscle pain, tenderness or weakness.
- ✓ Be sure to notify your Healthcare Provider before taking medicines bought without a prescription (dietary supplements, herbal products, niacin, etc.) or before taking medicines prescribed by an outside (non-VA) healthcare provider.
- ✓ Call your VA pharmacy or Healthcare Provider if you have any questions or problems with this change in your medicine.

Sincerely,